IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

1. (Original) An information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in said array of nodes; said system comprising:

(i) a graphical user interface for displaying a representation of at least some of said nodes as a two-dimensional display array of display points within a display area on a user display;

(ii) a user control for defining a two-dimensional region of said display area; and

(iii) a detector for detecting those display points lying within said two-dimensional region of said display area;

(iv) said graphical user interface also displaying a list of data representing information items, being those information items mapped onto nodes corresponding to display points displayed within said two-dimensional region of said display area.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said information items are mapped to nodes in said array on the basis of a feature vector derived from each information item.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 2, in which said feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, in which said information items comprise textual information, said feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of words.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said information items comprise textual information, said nodes being mapped by mutual similarity of at least a part of said textual information.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 4, in which said information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with more than a threshold frequency amongst said set of information items.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 4, in which said information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with less than a threshold frequency amongst said set of information items.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 4, comprising:

(i) search logic for carrying out a word-related search of said information items;

(ii) said search logic and said graphical user interface being arranged to co-operate so that only those display points corresponding to information items selected by said search are displayed.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said mapping between information items and nodes in said array includes a dither component so that substantially identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in said array.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 1, comprising a user control for choosing one or more information items from said list; said graphical user interface being operable to alter said manner of display within said display area of display points corresponding to selected information items.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 10, in which said graphical user interface is operable to display in a different colour and/or intensity those display points corresponding to information items chosen within said list.

12. (Original) An information storage system in which a set of distinct information items are processed so as to map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, such that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; the system comprising:

a generator to generate a feature vector derived from each information item, the feature vector for an information item representing a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features; and

mapping logic to map each feature vector to a node in the array of nodes, the mapping between information items and nodes in the array including a dither component so that substantially identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in the array.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, comprising:

logic to map a newly received information item to a node in the array of nodes;

a mapping error detector to detect a mapping error as the newly received information item is so mapped; and

logic responsive to a detection that the mapping error exceeds a threshold error amount, for initiating a remapping process of the set of information items and the newly received information item.

14. (Original) A portable data processing device comprising a system according to claim 1.

15. (Original) Video acquisition and/or processing apparatus comprising a system according to claim 1.

16. (Original) An information storage method in which a set of distinct information items are processed so as to map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, such that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; the method comprising the steps of:

generating a feature vector derived from each information, the feature vector for an information item representing a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features; and

mapping each feature vector to a node in the array of nodes, the mapping between information items and nodes in the array including a dither component so that substantially identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in the array.

17. (Original) An information retrieval method in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in said array of nodes; the method comprising:

(i) displaying a representation of at least some of said nodes as a two-dimensional display array of display points within a display area on a user display;

(ii) defining, with a user control, a two-dimensional region of said display area;

(iii) detecting those display points lying within said two-dimensional region of said display area; and

(iv) displaying a list of data representing information items, being those information items mapped onto nodes corresponding to display points displayed within said two-dimensional region of said display area.

18 (Currently Amended) Computer software having program code for carrying out a method according to ~~any one of claims 16 and 17~~ claim 16.

19. (Original) A providing medium for providing program code according to claim 18.

20. (Original) A medium according to claim 19, said medium being a storage medium.

21. (Original) A medium according to claim 19, said medium being a transmission medium.

22. (New) Computer software having a program code for carrying out the method according to claim 17.